

Writers' Workshop Lesson

Look for evidence that the teacher:	
<p><i>Preparation/Assessment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helps the students participate as a community of writers • Immerses the students in many examples of the type of writing they are engaging in so they can notice and use the characteristics • Is reading student writing on a regular basis and using her analysis of the writing to inform instruction • Uses the students' needs as writers (student work, notes) or selects a new understanding related to genre or craft • Has organized the students to write independently 	
<p><i>Minilesson</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helps the writer think about purpose, audience, and writing form (genre) • Engages the students in thinking about what effective writers do (e.g. uses mentor texts, writing samples, writer's notebook) • Helps the writers notice and name characteristics in the writing of other writers • States the principle in simple, clear language along with its purpose ("so that"... "in order to") and write it on a chart (<i>If grade level appropriate</i>) • Helps the students understand why the principle is helpful • Involves the writers in trying out the principle at the circle • Summarizes and help the students think about how they can apply the learning to their own writing 	
<p><i>Writing/Conferring</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taught the students how to show the ability to engage independently with their drawing/writing • Confers with individual writers so that they have the opportunity to think and talk about their writing/drawing, identify their plans, goals, and needs, and receive individual instruction • Uses records to guide and document the content of the conferences • Pulls together small groups of children with similar needs 	
<p><i>Sharing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involves the writers in talking about their writing with each other (turn and talk, author's chair) • Reinforces and/or extends the writers application of the minilesson principle if appropriate 	